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January 18, 2006

Sent via U.S. Mail

Eric Johnson
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 8, 8ENF-T
999 18th Street, Suite 300
Denver, Colorado 80202-2466

RE: Progress report for December 2005 activities - Hecla Mining Company Apex Site (EPA ID No. UT982589848, Docket No. RCRA-8-99-06)

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Per paragraph 64 of the Order, enclosed is a copy of the December 2005 progress report for your records.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me at (208) 769-4135 or e-mail at cgyp-ton@hecla-mining.com.

Sincerely,

Chris Gypton
Project Manager

Encl

Cc: HMC Legal Dept (w/o attachments)
John Jacus, Esq. (DG&S)



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January 18, 2006

Sent via U.S. Mail

Glenn Rogers, Chairman.
Shivwits Band of Paiute Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 448
Santa Clara, Utah 84765

John Krause
Bureau of Indian Affairs Phoenix Area Office
U.S. Department of Interior
P.O. Box 10
Phoenix, AZ 85001

Kelly Youngbear
BIA Southern Paiute Agency
P.O. Box 720
St. George, UT 84771

RE: Progress report for December 2005 activities - Hecla Mining Company Apex Site (EPA ID No. UT982589848, Docket No. RCRA-8-99-06)

Dear Chairman Rogers, Mr. Krause and Ms. Youngbear:

Per paragraph 64 of the Order, enclosed is a copy of the December 2005 progress report for your records.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me at (208) 769-4135 or e-mail at cgypton@hecla-mining.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Gypton".

Chris Gypton
Project Manager

Encl

Cc: HMC Legal Dept. (w/o attachments)
John Jacus, Esq. (DG&S) (w/o attachments)
Eric Johnson (USEPA, Region VIII) (w/o attachments)

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January 18, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: Paul Glader

COPIES TO: file, distribution

FROM: Chris Gypton

SUBJECT: **Progress Report No. 20 for period ending December 31, 2005; Pond 2 Final Closure - Apex Site, Washington County, Utah**

Summary

Weather conditions at the site were generally satisfactory all month; negligible precipitation was recorded for the St. George area and none recorded at the site.

The final cover construction was substantially completed on December 23rd and the contractor demobilized the equipment and crew by the end of the month. A short list of work items primarily related to site drainage and erosion control, will be completed in January 2006, along with hydroseeding of the site.

Major Issues

1. BIA demand to have Pond 2 removed from Shivwits' property – This issue is still not resolved, however we are proceeding with Phase III with the force majeure provisions in the 7003 order still in effect.

Work Planned for Next Period

1. Complete contractor punch list.
2. Hydroseeding.
3. As-built surveying and prepare record drawings.
4. Close-out contracts.
5. Complete compiling data for construction completion report.
6. Start long term monitoring.

Work in Process

Procure Outside Services

1. No activity - all work in this area is complete.

Procure Materials

1. No activity – all work in this area is complete.

Contractor Submittals

1. No activity – all work in this area is complete.

Seepage Collection System Maintenance

1. No activity – all work in this area is complete.

Phase II Drain/Evaporate Excess Water

1. No activity - all work in this area is complete.

Phase III Final Cover Construction

1. The erosion control rock placement was completed on December 23rd.
2. Contractor equipment and crew was demobilized from the site by the end of the month.

Sampling and Analysis in Period

Material Characterization

1. No activity

Field Tests, Inspections & QA/QC

1. The punch list inspection by the Project Engineer (Monster Engineering) and Construction Manager (Gila Management) was conducted on December 6th. Erosion control rock placement, depth and material quality were found to be satisfactory. Minor adjustments in the drainage ditch will need to be done to eliminate minor ponding of stormwater. Gila Management will schedule a follow-up inspection the first week in January 2006 to verify progress on the punch list work.

Cost and Schedule

Committed costs in December 2005 were approximately \$32,800. Total project to date committed is approximately \$1,163,800. Forecast cost at completion is expected to be \$1,237,300.

The cost report for December is attached. Current status of the deliverables listed in the RCRA 7003 order is as follows:

| Deliverable | Reference Paragraph | Due | Remarks |
|---|----------------------------|---|---|
| Post warning signage around perimeter of site | 57 | 15 days after effective date of order | Work completed on March 9, 2004 |
| Begin implementation of closure plan | 63 | 45 days after receipt of filing of order | Work started on February 23, 2004 |
| Monthly progress reports | 64 | 28th day after close of month | Requirement in effect after order is filed. |
| Completion report | 65 | 30 days after completion of all closure plan tasks | To be submitted within 30 days after work has been physically completed and all contracts closed out. Follow-up report to be issued after end of monitoring period. |
| | | | |

The update of the schedule milestones is on the following table:

| Milestone | Target | Actual | Remarks |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|---|
| Issue bid package – Phase I (Sump Drains) | 6/14/04 | 6/15/04 | Portion of RFP materials issued at pre-bid on 6/14/04; remainder sent via courier |
| Issue RFP package – Phase III | 6/24/04 | 6/24/04 | |
| Award contract for Phase I | 6/24/04 | 6/29/04 | Date contract was shipped to Hughes |
| Pre-bid meeting – Phase III | 7/19/04 | 7/19/04 | |
| Start Phase I (Sump Drains) construction | 7/12/04 | 7/19/04 | |
| Start Phase II (Evaporation) | 7/19/04 | 7/29/04 | |
| Receive bids for Phase III | 8/2/04 | 8/2/04 | |
| Re-bid Phase III contract package | April 2005 | 4/27/05 | Date bid package was sent to Hughes |
| Start Phase III construction | End of August 2005 | 8/29/05 | Start of contractor mobilization |
| Complete Phase III construction | Dec 23rd 2005 | 12/23/05 | Completion of contract scope of work |

Supplemental Attachments

1. None.

| Activity | 2004 Budget | Revised Budget May 2004 | Committed Cost this Period | Cumulative Committed Cost To Date 12-31-05 | Forecasted Cost To Complete | Forecasted Final Cost | Remarks on Forecast to Complete |
|---|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Phase I - Drain Excess Liquid From Tailings | | | | | | | |
| Test wick program - Nilox | | 35,000 | | 35,000 | 0 | 35,000 | |
| Earthwork during wick test program | | 2,000 | | 1,768 | 0 | 1,768 | |
| Install drainage piping and sumps: | | | | | | | |
| Contractor mobilization/demobilization | | 5,500 | | 5,500 | 0 | 5,500 | |
| Install sumps - material & labor | | 20,000 | | 24,500 | 0 | 24,500 | |
| Build surface evaporation ponds | | 2,700 | | 838 | 0 | 838 | |
| Remove existing evaporation ponds | | 2,000 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | Work moved to Phase III |
| Bury existing pond material & regrade | | 2,000 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | Work moved to Phase III |
| Survey monuments | | 3,500 | | 1,160 | 0 | 1,160 | Cost to complete transferred to As-built drawing line item |
| Subtotal Phase I | 189,200 | 72,700 | | 68,766 | 0 | 68,766 | |
| Phase II - Evaporate Excess Liquid | | | | | | | |
| Operate evaporation & pumping system | | 8,000 | | 9,585 | | 9,585 | FY 2004 work only |
| Test pits to determine dewatering progress | | | | 1,320 | | 1,320 | |
| Upgrade evaporation cells & collection sumps | | | | 132,114 | | 132,114 | |
| Dewatering & seepage collection management | | | | 104,468 | | 104,468 | T&M labor + equipment; February '05 through Oct '05 |
| Subtotal Phase II | 8,000 | 8,000 | 0 | 247,487 | 0 | 247,487 | |
| Phase III - Regrading & Final Cover System | | | | | | | |
| Contractor mobilization/demobilization | | 20,000 | | 33,226 | 19,200 | 52,426 | |
| Excavate existing embankment | | 15,000 | 725 | 160,275 | | 160,275 | Incl misc. repairs to existing liner edge added to scope |
| Final grading of 1% surface | | 2,500 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | Incl w/ 12" protection layer |
| Place barrier layer (GCL) - top | | 200,000 | | 167,000 | 0 | 167,000 | |
| Place barrier layer (GCL) - outcrops | | 50,000 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | Incl w/ GCL cover cost |
| Excavate diversion channel | | 9,100 | 20,000 | 40,000 | | 40,000 | |
| Place 12" protection layer on top surface | | 19,000 | | 50,000 | 10,925 | 60,925 | Incl \$10,925 price for hydroseeding added to scope |
| Reconstruct outside embankment | | 7,350 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | Incl w/ excavation of existing embankment |
| Finish grade 1% surface - top | | 3,000 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | Incl w/ 12" protection layer |
| Place surface layer at outcrops (D50 = 1") | | 4,800 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | Incl w/ 12" protection layer |
| Recontour diversion channel for drainage | | 2,000 | | 0 | 24,183 | 24,183 | Incl additional grading in drainage channel added to scope |
| Place diversion channel erosion protection (3" rock) | | 3,800 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | Incl w/ diversion channel exc |
| Surveying - diversion channel drainage | | 2,500 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | Incl w/ diversion channel exc |
| Remove existing evaporation ponds | | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | Incl w/ excavation of existing embankment |
| Clear site for construction | | 3,000 | | 7,500 | 0 | 7,500 | |
| Performance & Payment Bond | | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | Requirement waived |
| Subtotal Phase III | 337,000 | 342,050 | 20,725 | 458,001 | 64,308 | 512,309 | |
| Field Indirect Costs | | | | | | | |
| Construction Management labor | | 108,360 | 6,500 | 242,179 | 6,000 | 248,179 | |
| Construction Management field expenses | | 38,575 | 1,458 | 55,775 | 800 | 56,375 | |
| Field office trailer | | 6,525 | | 4,333 | | 4,333 | Trailer removed from site on Nov 1st |
| CQA testing | | 9,200 | | 930 | | 930 | |
| CQA completion report | | 5,000 | | 0 | 5,000 | 5,000 | |
| Survey and layout | | 2,208 | 552 | 2,640 | 1,335 | 3,975 | Includes as-built survey + final aerial photo |
| Material classification tests | | 1,600 | | 5,782 | | 5,782 | |
| Consulting Engineer | | 42,200 | 2,195 | 52,737 | 2,900 | 55,637 | |
| Subtotal Consultants | 164,500 | 213,568 | 10,705 | 384,355 | 15,835 | 380,190 | |
| Hecia Costs | | | | | | | |
| Labor | 15,500 | 15,500 | 824 | 21,812 | 2,700 | 24,512 | |
| Travel expenses | 3,200 | 3,200 | 520 | 3,397 | 650 | 4,047 | |
| Subtotal Hecia Costs | 18,700 | 18,700 | 1,344 | 25,209 | 3,350 | 28,559 | |
| Total Pond 2 Final Closure | 715,400 | 655,018 | 32,774 | 1,163,817 | 73,493 | 1,237,310 | |

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